



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

mouth of the Deschutes Canyon. This bird was with a small flock of *Junco h. connec-tens* when shot.

**Vermivora r. gutturalis.** Calaveras Warbler. Two males of this warbler were taken on Miller's Ranch, mouth of the Deschutes River in Sherman County, on April 16 and 17, 1915. On August 21 one was secured at McEwen in Baker County. All three specimens were collected while feeding in willow thickets.

**Setophaga ruticilla.** Redstart. Two immature males of this warbler were taken in the willow thickets along Powder River at McEwen on August 19 and 20, 1915.

**Dumetella carolinensis.** Catbird. An adult male catbird was taken at Mount Vernon, Grant County, on June 30, 1915. Another was seen flying across the road between John Day and Prairie City on July 8, 1915.

**Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus.** Dotted Canyon Wren. An adult male in very ragged plumage was taken at Mount Vernon on July 1, 1915. It was found on a rim-rock on the dry slope of the valley at four o'clock in the morning, at which time it was singing lustily.

**Regulus calendula calendula.** Ruby-crowned Kinglet. While ploughing through about twelve inches of new wet snow in the lodgepole pine forest on Lookout Mountain, in Crook County on June 12, 1915, I was attracted by the cheerful song of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet over my head. Upon looking for this bird I discovered two kinglets instead of one, and one of these was just disappearing in a clump of moss about thirty feet above the ground. The interesting thing about this particular clump of moss was that it contained the nest of this pair of birds, and furthermore the moss was growing on the twigs of a dead and leafless pine that stood some distance from any living tree. The nest was well hidden in the moss, and on this date was about ready for the lining, with both birds on the job of construction.

**Hyllocichla guttata auduboni.** Audubon Hermit Thrush. Near the mining camp of Bourne, Elkhorn Mountains, Baker County, I discovered the nest and eggs of this thrush on August 3, 1915. The nest was saddled on a limb next to the trunk of a small balsam fir, about eight feet from the ground. The nesting tree was growing in dense woods on the mountain side at about 6000 feet altitude. The female was flushed from the eggs when the nest was found.

**Ixoreus naevius naevius.** Varied Thrush. On August 4, 1915, I collected a male of this species near Bourne in the Elkhorn Mountains. Several Varied Thrushes were seen in the Wallowa Mountains, near the junction of Cliff and the Imnaha River on September 7. These are rather late for breeding records; but a Varied Thrush does breed in these mountains, as my note book for 1907 contains a record of a nest containing four large young about a week old found at Anthony, Baker County, on May 14, 1907. Unfortunately no birds were taken at the time, but I still have the nest in my collection as a record. The nest was taken May 27, 1914, after both young and parents had left the locality.

*Portland, Oregon, December 6, 1915.*

## A PERSONAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE DISTRIBUTIONAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

By WILLIAM LEON DAWSON

WE ARE all under the deepest obligation to Dr. Grinnell for his painstaking report upon the distribution of California birds. Dr. Grinnell is, as every member of the Cooper Club knows, exceptionally well qualified for this important task. Add to his intimate knowledge of California birds afield, an exhaustive acquaintance with published literature, and you have an equipment which has made of this Distributional List as perfect a work of its kind as could well be hoped for.

But the very perfection of opportunity represented by this effort affords,

in the last analysis, a most comfortable assurance to the humbler student of Californian birds that his own efforts need not be considered wasted, and that he, too, may hope to make some important contribution to knowledge. For not even yet is our knowledge of the birds of California perfected. Indeed, our greatest obligation to Dr. Grinnell is for his willingness to report *progress* in a realm whose mastery is confessedly incomplete. We have now a basis of attack upon our problems, a standard by which to test our own knowledge, a central depot signalized, to which we may bring our own plunder.

We predict, as a direct outcome of this publication, a flood of additional offerings from other workers. For one of the most real restraints operating upon any would-be contributor, as to the columns of *THE CONDOR*, is his uncertainty as to the value or pertinency of his offerings. No one wishes to burden the pages of a magazine with information which other people already possess. Therefore a silence, prolonged and painful, on the part of most observers.

For my own part (though not one of the silent kind) I have been both surprised and pleased to see in how many cases my scattered gleanings in California are able to bear out or modify, or even possibly contradict, the conclusions set forth in *Avifauna* No. 11. I deem it fitting, therefore, to offer a few of these records below, as a modest supplement to the standard of authority now set up. In doing so, it is needless to add, the writer is not moved by any captious spirit of criticism, nor by any thought of discrediting the importance of what has been done. My contribution is but a trifle in comparison with the whole; and it is, moreover, just such a contribution as forty others should make. I hope that many others may speedily be moved by this pleasant challenge to formulate their own conclusions in this fascinating and important field. Only by reaction is life manifested. A worker is never better pleased with his own efforts than when they have proved provocative of effort in others; and the sincerest compliment which we can pay Dr. Grinnell is to make an early revision of his Distributional List possible and necessary.

In the following pages I offer only such considerations as would serve to strengthen the evidence for the inclusion of certain rarer birds in the California list, or else to extend or re-define the ranges of certain species, or such as for any reason lead me to differ in a material way from Dr. Grinnell's conclusions. In most cases, therefore, I find it necessary to quote directly from the new Distributional List, in order to bring out clearly the point of difference or change.

***Aechmophorus occidentalis*.** Western Grebe. Confirmatory and extending. A pair seen on Diaz Lake near Lone Pine, Inyo County, on June 18, 1911; Horse Lake, Lassen County, June 5, 1912 (2); Goose Lake, Modoc County, June 11, 1912 (3); San Joaquin Swamps, Merced County, June 6, 1914 (chain creaking chorus of birds, probably breeding); El Pizmo, June 25, 1914.

***Gavia immer*.** Common Loon. "Common winter visitant". Should also be noted as a summer straggler along the coast. Farallon Islands, June 2, 1911; El Pizmo, May 11, 1912 (eleven birds seen); June 25, 1914; Goleta, May 29, 1915; June 15, 1915 (specimen, adult ♀, taken). (See also Willett: "Birds of Pac. Slope of So. Calif.")

***Larus hyperboreus*.** Glaucous Gull. One speaks with diffidence of sight records of the Glaucous Gull, because hoary adults of some other species, usually *L. glaucescens*, are at least as common as indubitable *hyperboreus*. Yet I should say that juvenals of this species are almost certain to be seen on the Santa Barbara beach at some time during the course of any season. These are transient members of a great company which submits to closest scrutiny. April 27, 1912; Aug. 4, 1912; May 1, 5, 14, 1913; and April 1, 1914, are typical Santa Barbara appearances.

*Larus philadelphia*. Bonaparte Gull. Also a straggler in summer: Horse Lake, June 5, 1912, two immature birds; Goose Lake, June 20, 1912, three immatures.

*Xema sabini*. Sabine Gull. Occasionally ventures ashore. Mr. Torrey told me that he had seen a specimen on the Estero, but I did not learn the date. Commander and Mrs. Parmenter saw a bird at the mouth of Romero Creek on the 4th of June, 1915. On the 25th of August, Prof. Lynds Jones and I encountered an immature Sabine on the Estero at Santa Barbara under exceptionally favorable circumstances. The bird lighted upon the ground at close range after it had traversed the marsh in a rather vacillating fashion; but when pressed too closely put off to sea again.

*Sterna caspia*. Caspian Tern. "Rather rare winter visitant and migrant". A company of some twenty birds haunted the flats off the mouth of Davis Creek on Goose Lake in 1912, and gave the impression that they were only waiting for decent weather as an excuse for nesting. We had them under observation from the 10th of June on, but devastating storms occurred on the 22nd, and there were no signs of progress when we last saw them on the 24th. Other "unseasonable" records are: Los Baños, June 4, 1914 (1 bird); Santa Barbara Estero, May 27, 1915 (1 bird); and Santa Barbara (Sandyland), August 6, 1915 (1 bird).

*Sterna antillarum*. Least Tern. A colony of about forty pairs bred with indifferent success at the Sandyland beach, about ten miles east of Santa Barbara in the summer of 1915.

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern. "Occurs rarely on the seacoast during migration". The autumnal movement of this species in 1915 formed a marked exception to the rule at Santa Barbara. On the 25th of August we saw thousands of these birds feeding over the kelp beds just off shore, and a few of them drifted onto the esteros. As late as the 11th of September they were still plentiful on the lagoons, especially at Santa Barbara and Sandyland, but only a scattering few appeared over the kelp.

*Oceanodroma homochroa*. Ashy Petrel. Confirmatory. A specimen was picked up dead on the beach at Sandyland, near Santa Barbara, May 5, 1915; not preserved.

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. White Pelican. A single bird appeared on Laguna Blanca near Santa Barbara, December 27, 1914.

*Anhinga anhinga*. Water Turkey. "One living individual scrutinized by Allan Brooks, February 9, 1913, at Potholes", etc. Two other individuals were also scrutinized by myself (under 8-power binoculars) at the same spot on the 12th of February, 1913. The birds were at a considerable range, but their behavior contrasted strongly with that of the Farallon Cormorants which accompanied them.

*Mareca americana*. Baldpate. "Common winter visitant". I found the Baldpate breeding commonly at Davis Creek in Modoc County, where I took two sets of eggs, one of nine, fresh, June 20, 1912, and one of eleven, advanced in incubation on June 24, 1912. Others, evidently breeding birds, were seen near Eagleville in the Surprise Valley, July 12, 1912.

*Querquedula discors*. Blue-winged Teal. "Rather rare transient and winter visitant, occurring altogether on fresh water". . . . "Santa Barbara (Torrey, Condor, XI, 1909, p. 173). Mr. Torrey's record was of two males and one (presumed) female seen on Laguna Blanca and the Estero from January 21 to May 1, 1908; and from December 6, 1908, to March 16, 1909. A notable movement of this species was witnessed by Prof. Lynds Jones and myself at Santa Barbara on the 25th of August, 1915. We were wading about in the "Estero", a brackish backwater area adjacent to the railroad yards, and saw several small flocks of ducks which we took to be Blue-winged Teals. While we were deliberating, a splendid flock of about twenty birds, all males, charged in and settled before us, allowing careful inspection with binoculars. The surprising thing about the birds is (I am not at all familiar with the species at this season) that they had sufficiently recovered from their eclipse plumage to be easily recognized as males, notably by the appearance of the white crescent between eye and bill. Unfortunately the locality was not kept under close observation, though other flocks which included females were seen as late as the 11th of September at the same place. November 4, 1911, and May 7, 1915, are my only other dates for Santa Barbara.

*Dafila acuta*. Pintail. "Abundant winter visitant", etc. Considering how early this species clears for its northern breeding grounds in the spring (the bulk of them quit the Santa Barbara coast in February, though stragglers appear into May), I was astonished at the numbers which returned in late August of the year 1915. On the 25th,

coincident with the notable movement of Blue-winged Teals, was a phenomenal outpouring of Pintails. Some of the flocks looked in at the Estero or Laguna Blanca, but most of them paralleled the coast offshore, moving east (and so south). The males were in full eclipse plumage at this time, and for several weeks thereafter were difficult to distinguish save by bearing.

**Marila collaris.** Ring-necked Duck. "Now rather uncommon . . . fourteen records". From the unfailing regularity with which a small group of these birds occupies a certain corner on Laguna Blanca during late December, I have little doubt that we have been seeing practically the same birds every winter for the past five years. Seven birds constitute the nucleus of this flock. Only once have I seen it elsewhere, on Round Pond, 12 miles west of town, November 4, 1911.

**Dendrocygna bicolor.** Fulvous Tree-Duck. "Interior valleys southerly". Mention should, I think, be made of the occurrence of this bird on the sea-beaches during migrations: Santa Barbara, May 2, 1912 (9 birds photographed on beach at Sandyland); August 16, 1913; May 5, 1915.

**Ixobrychus exilis.** Least Bittern. "Only four definite breeding records". On the 23rd of May, 1912, H. W. Carriger, Fred Truesdale and the writer, each took a nest with three eggs near Dos Palos. Again in 1914, May 30, three nests with eggs were found near Los Baños by Mr. Rossiter M. Wheeler and William O. Dawson, n/5, n/1, and n/2. The bird undoubtedly breeds also at Santa Barbara where it is of regular occurrence. I noted it on the 29th of May, 1915.

**Lobipes lobatus.** Northern Phalarope. Additional records are: Dos Palos, May 17, 1912 (12 birds photographed); Goose Lake, June 24, 1912 (5 birds in high plumage); Surprise Valley, July 12, 1915.

**Himantopus mexicanus.** Black-necked Stilt. "Common summer visitant to interior localities". According to Mr. Bradford Torrey, who conducted me to the locality on the 21st of August, 1912, at least two, and possibly three, pairs of Stilts had bred in the Estero that season. The Estero, I need scarcely remind CONDOR readers, is a brackish backwater lagoon (of a high degree of uncleanness), which is flanked by warehouses, railroad yards, and the City gas-works of Santa Barbara. The birds to the number of ten or a dozen were there on the 21st and again on the 22nd of August, and I judged many of them to be young of the year.

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson Snipe. In a swamp near Lone Pine in Inyo County, we heard on the 17th of June, 1911, the "hooting" nuptial song of the Wilson Snipe; and the day following flushed a mother bird in charge of a chick, which had undoubtedly been hatched in the near vicinity.

**Pisobia maculata.** Pectoral Sandpiper. "Rare spring and fall migrant", with exact citations. Rare, but not so rare, say *rarish*. Recent records are: Santa Barbara, August 20, 1913; Elkhorn (Monterey County), October 11, 1913 (6 birds photographed); La Patera (8 miles west of Santa Barbara), August 25, 1915.

**Pisobia bairdi.** Baird Sandpiper. "Rare fall migrant". The species is of infallible occurrence along the Santa Barbara coast in autumn, where it is at least as certain, if not as abundant, as the Red-backed Sandpiper. Fall appearances range from July 25 (1914) to September 4 (1911). I suspect that its appearances in spring are quite as regular, although, naturally, more condensed. My meager records (due merely to lack of attention) are April 27, 1912, May 2, 1913, May 5 and 7, 1915.

**Pelidna alpina sakhalina.** Red-backed Sandpiper. The Salton Sea appears to be an unrecorded wintering station. Mr. Brooks and I found them in company with Western (*Ereunetes mauri*) and Least (*P. minutilla*) Sandpipers, near Mecca in January (Jan. 30, 1913).

**Totanus melanoleucus.** Greater Yellow-legs. "Many records . . . almost span the summer". Then June 30, 1912, Eagleville, Modoc County, comes pretty nearly to being the keystone of the arch; but Grinnell is quite right in saying that these midsummer records have no breeding significance.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. "Abundant resident of suitable localities throughout the State". True; but the term 'resident', unqualified, conceals the fact that the population (at least of southern California) is heavily augmented in winter, presumably by influx of extra-territorial migrants. There are forty times as many Killdeer in winter as in summer along the Santa Barbara coast.

**Aegialitis nivos.** Snowy Plover. "Occurs sparingly in the interior", with citation,

none from the Northeast. Of regular occurrence at Goose Lake and manifestly breeding (or trying to do so; the weather was very bad) in June, 1912.

***Podasocys montanus*.** Mountain Plover. Two coastwise appearances of single birds on the Santa Barbara beach must also be reckoned as casual: October 19, 1912, and August 25, 1915.

***Parabuteo unicinctus harrisi*.** Harris Hawk. "Summer visitant to the valley of the lower Colorado River; two records for the California side". Also winter "visitant" and probable resident in the same region. Mr. Brooks and I encountered these birds repeatedly during our stay at Potholes in February, 1913 (records February 9, 10, 11, and 12). On the 12th I saw three at one time seated. They kept to the taller timber of the Laguna backwater, and we were unable to secure specimens, though on another occasion I did study one with binoculars from the foot of the tree in which he stood.

***Buteo swainsoni*.** Swainson Hawk. "Recorded north to Shasta Valley . . . east to Independence Lake". A nest found June 11, 1912, in a yellow pine near Goose Lake was not yet occupied, although in recent repair, with the birds in watchful attention. Succeeding bad weather seemed to discourage the birds utterly, and no eggs had been laid at the time of our departure, June 29, although we frequently saw the hawks in the neighborhood. Birds also seen near the crest of Sugar Hill.

***Aquila chrysaetos*.** Golden Eagle. "Rare or wanting east of the Sierran divide". Encountered in the Pit River Valley, in southern Alturas County, June 5, 1912; and sparingly in July along the crest of the southern Warners (July 2, 1912, near Eagle Peak; July 12).

***Falco mexicanus*.** Prairie Falcon. Dr. Grinnell correctly states the breeding range of this species as Sonoran, but it is perhaps worth while to note its habitual invasion of Boreal zones in summer. Dr. Fisher records the Prairie Falcon from Big Cottonwood Meadows (alt. c. 9800), and Whitney Meadows (alt. c. 9800) in August (Birds of the Death Valley Expedition, May, 1893, p. 40). We saw it repeatedly in late June and in early July in the Warner Mountains, and on the 5th of July, 1912, as we stood on the summit of Warren Peak, a Prairie Falcon passed slowly within fifty feet of us, then circled above us at an altitude of 10,000 feet (zonally equivalent to an altitude of 13,000 in the southern Sierras).

As an extreme of the opposing tendency I would instance the regular nesting of a pair of these birds on the southern or seaward slope of the Santa Ynez Range, near Santa Barbara. This pair hunts over the coastal lowlands, and I have caught them on three occasions on the crest of the sea cliff, and once over the ocean.

***Falco peregrinus anatum*.** Duck Hawk. This species is also a rare but regular breeder on the innermost coast ranges separating Kern and San Luis Obispo counties. On the 6th of April, 1914, I took a set of four eggs of the Duck Hawk in western Kern County, at least sixty miles distant from the ocean, in a bee line.

***Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.** American Osprey. "Two definite nesting localities in the interior, Eagle Lake . . . Kaweah River". Is pretty certain also to nest on Goose Lake, where we saw a bird at close range, June 17, 1912.

***Glaucidium gnoma grinnelli*.** Coast Pygmy Owl. Either this form or one having plumage a thousandth part of a shade lighter occurs commonly enough in the Santa Ynez Range near Santa Barbara. I have a specimen, a male, taken by Mr. Allan Brooks in Los Canoes Canyon, January 2, 1913. Other record dates are December 27, 1910, January 11, 1913, and September 18, 1915. Yet of *G. g. grinnelli* Grinnell says, "occurs possibly south as far as Santa Margarita" (northern San Luis Obispo County); while of *G. g. californicum* the nearest record station appears to be in the San Gabriel foothills of Los Angeles County.

***Chordeiles acutipennis texensis*.** Texas Nighthawk. "Common summer visitant". On the 31st of January, 1911, near Long Beach, I descried a Nighthawk which Mr. C. B. Linton promptly identified as the Texan. It was early dusk and the bird was under observation for several moments as it quartered the sky. It certainly was not a Poorwill.

***Chaetura vauxi*.** Vaux Swift. "Common summer visitant locally to the northwest humid coast Transition". The occurrence of Vaux Swifts at Kenawyers on the middle fork of the Kings River, July 9, 1913, would argue that there are also isolated breeding colonies of these lesser swifts in the Sierras; and this the knowledge of their breeding habits in the Cascade Mountains would lead us to expect.

**Archilochus alexandri.** Black-chinned Hummingbird. "And recorded, perhaps casually, north to Honey Lake and Camp Bidwell". This strikes one as being a needlessly cautious qualification of a species which breeds in Upper Sonoran areas straight through to British Columbia. We encountered this species in the Warners July 3 and 9, 1912, and at New Albany, Oregon, June 27, 1912.

**Calypte costae.** Costa Hummingbird. "Common summer visitant . . . northwest to Santa Barbara . . . Rare north of the 35th parallel west of the Sierras". From the circumstance of having encountered this species at La Panza (in central San Luis Obispo County) two different seasons, viz., April 21, 1912, and April 20, 1914, I should infer that the species might be a breeding bird and of regular occurrence at that station. We saw it also near Pozo, April 30, 1914.

**Stellula calliope.** Calliope Hummer. "Summer visitant . . . south . . . to the San Bernardino Mountains". On the 26th of May, 1913, I observed the courting evolutions of a male Calliope Hummer just north of Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains. Other birds were seen June 5th and 6th in the Tahquitz Valley, and there can be little question that these were breeding birds.

**Tyrannus tyrannus.** Eastern Kingbird. "Rare transient visitant; two records". We encountered this bird at two points on the Modoc-Lassen trip of 1912; one June 15, on the north fork of the Pit River about eight miles above Alturas, and the other June 30, near Eagleville, in the Surprise Valley. Both of these, in all probability, represented breeding birds.

**Tyrannus vociferans.** Cassin Kingbird. "Fairly common resident . . . northwest to Santa Barbara". This is perhaps based on Willett's summary<sup>1</sup>: "Winters regularly north to Santa Barbara". In a residence of five years at Santa Barbara I have not seen any Kingbirds in winter along this coast. Dr. Evermann, for two years resident at Santa Paula, speaks<sup>2</sup> of both species, *T. verticalis* and *T. vociferans*, as "summer residents" only. Streater, writing of Santa Barbara in 1886, says<sup>3</sup> under *Tyrannus verticalis*: "A very few remain through the winter". This record would undoubtedly be referable to *T. vociferans*, but the presence of this species in Santa Barbara in winter must be a rather irregular occurrence.

Grinnell's further statement: "Occurs commonly as a summer visitant, and breeding, at Paicines, San Benito County", gives one the impression that such breeding is a rare and isolated instance; and this is, in fact, the only reference he makes to its breeding outside of the "San Diegan district". As a matter of fact the Cassin Kingbird is exceedingly abundant as a breeder throughout the northeastern quarter of San Luis Obispo County. It is found also throughout the interior sections of western Santa Barbara County, and the probabilities are that it enjoys a continuous breeding range from western Santa Barbara county, through central and eastern San Luis Obispo, eastern Monterey, and San Benito counties to western Merced County. I found the bird west of Los Baños, just out of the foothills, on the 21st of May, 1914.

A correspondent, Mr. Fred Truesdale, living near Shandon in San Luis Obispo County, reports the taking of a set of five "Western" Kingbird's eggs on the 28th of March, 1914. The report is trustworthy as to date, and I have seen the eggs, but I suspect they are those of *T. vociferans*.

**Myiarchus cinerascens cinerascens.** Ash-throated Flycatcher. "Northernmost record east of the Sierra Nevada: Honey Lake, Lassen County". We found this bird in a stretch of sage and juniper a few miles north of Horse Lake, June 5, 1912.

**Nuttallornis borealis.** Olive-sided Flycatcher. "Breeds west to the coast from Monterey County northward". The Olive-sided Flycatcher breeds regularly on the seaward slopes of the Santa Ynez Range near Santa Barbara. We took a set of three eggs from a live oak tree in Los Canoas Canyon June 5, 1915, at an elevation of about 2600. When it is recalled that Bell Sparrows and Black-chinned Sparrows breed locally above this point, one may realize how far within the limits of "Upper Sonoran" this record really comes.

**Empidonax trailli trailli.** Traill Flycatcher. "Summers in . . . Lower and Upper Sonoran . . . rarely low Transition". "Breeds . . . well into the foothill regions but

<sup>1</sup>Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California, by Geo. Willett; 1912, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup>A List of the Birds Obtained in Ventura County, Calif., by Barton W. Evermann, Auk, vol. III, April, 1886, p. 180.

<sup>3</sup>Ornithologist & Oologist, vol. II, May, 1886, p. 66.

apparently seldom above limits of Upper Sonoran". This statement, it seems to me, is unnecessarily guarded, in view of the fact that the Traill Flycatcher breeds in the Yosemite Valley in close association with the Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*) and the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*). On June 10, 1914, I found a nest of the last-named, within a stone's throw of a Traill Flycatcher's nest on the banks of the Merced (altitude 4000).

On July 18, 1913, I photographed (but did not take on account of advanced incubation) a set of Traill Flycatcher eggs at Simpson Meadows on the Middle Fork of Kings River at an altitude of 6000 feet, and in the heart of the Sierras. The Simpson Meadows are confessedly a faunal hodgepodge, but a place where Thick-billed Sparrows (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha*), Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*), Sierra Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus sierrae*), Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), Sierra Junco (*Junco oreganus thurberi*), and Sierra Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*) breed, is at least high Transition.

**Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis.** Blue-fronted Jay. "On the mountains of southern California from those of Ventura County southeast", etc. "Partial winter movement . . . thus *frontalis* has been recorded in winter from Santa Barbara". I am persuaded that some form of *Cyanocitta* breeds west, at least to the center, in Santa Barbara County, and that Santa Barbara birds are merely visitors from over the range (Santa Ynez). These are, however, my only records: Foxen Canyon, April 2, 1912; April 2, 1914; Solvang, April 27, 1912; Santa Barbara, March 29 and April 28, 1913.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** Western Raven. "Common resident locally throughout the State". It seems to me that this statement is both too general and too generous as a summary of the present status of the Raven, even when qualified further: "now scarce or absent in the most thickly settled counties". The fact is that one may travel counties on end in California, and those by no means the most settled ones, without once seeing a Raven. We travelled a thousand miles in the northeastern quarter of the state in 1912 without seeing a single bird. And if they were once common in the Sierras (see Fisher, "Birds of the Death Valley Expedition", 1893, pp. 70, 71), they are no longer so. I saw no Ravens in a month's sojourn in the Cottonwood Lakes region in 1911, nor in another month in the region focussing on the North Palisade Peak, in 1913. The two "associational" keys to the current distribution of the Raven in California are *cattle* and *sea-birds' eggs*, and the Raven holds no dwelling where neither of these factors is present.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis.** Western Crow. "Not recorded east of the Sierran divide except . . . Fort Crook . . . and Eagle Lake". Quite to our surprise we found Crows at Davis Creek in Modoc County from June 10th on. They had evidently bred in the vicinity. The species occurred also at Eagleville (June 30, 1912).

**Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus.** Pinyon Jay. Santa Barbara must be credited with another, or perhaps two, of these sporadic occurrences. On October 9, 1914, a flock of about 200 flew westward directly over Los Colibris. About a week previously I had seen a large flock which I took to be of this species as they were outlined against the Santa Ynez Range at a distance of two miles.

**Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** Bobolink. "Rare, transient; four records". On June 30, 1912, we found Bobolinks still in song and evidently breeding in the meadows near Eagleville, Modoc County. We did not, however, attempt to determine the size of the colony, but I remember passing down a lane with two males on one side and one on the other, singing.

**Molothrus ater obscurus.** Dwarf Cowbird. Westernmost citation of occurrence, "Los Angeles and Ventura counties". Is also a rare breeder in the vicinity of Santa Barbara. On the 13th of September, 1912, I took a young female in patchy transition plumage from a flock of Redwings at Carpinteria. On August 25, 1915, Professor Jones and I found a bird in pure juvenal plumage dancing close attendance on a group of horses pastured ten miles west of Santa Barbara. Near the same spot I saw a fully matured bird riding about on the back of a hog, October 28, 1911.

**Agelaius tricolor.** Tricolored Redwing. "Not recorded east of the Sierran divide, save as breeding at Lake Tahoe". We found them in great numbers along the south fork of the Pit River, in Modoc County, June 5, 1912.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** White-crowned Sparrow. "Common summer visitant to the Boreal zone". Its nesting in Yosemite Valley with Traill Flycatcher has

already been noted. I took a nest of four eggs on the banks of the Merced, June 10, 1914, at an altitude of only 4000 feet, a notable departure due to the peculiar configuration of this "caved in" country.

**Zonotrichia albicollis.** White-throated Sparrow. "Rare winter visitant"; 17 records enumerated. These sparrows have become rather common in Santa Barbara this fall, to judge from their drawing notes; but they are exceedingly shy, and must be caught unawares to be seen. But as I write these words (December 8, 1915) a handsome fellow is feeding upon the ground within ten feet of my study window.

**Progne subis hesperia.** Western Martin. "Distributed as a breeding species along, and west of, the Sierras". Then Honey Lake in Lassen County may be farther east and north than any previously recorded breeding station. We found a single pair on the 4th of June, 1912, occupying a hollow limb in a giant pine overlooking the lake.

**Hirundo erythrogaster.** Barn Swallow. "Breeds . . . the entire length of the state west of the Sierras". In noting exceptions the List gives Lake Tahoe and Eagle Lake as extremes from the northeast. We found Barn Swallows breeding sparingly throughout Modoc and Lassen counties, with particular records as follows: Long Valley, June 4, 1912; Goose Lake (Davis Creek) June 17, and Surprise Valley (Eagleville), June 29, 1912.

**Vireo huttoni huttoni.** Hutton Vireo. A more "eastward" record than any given by Grinnell is Palm Springs, January 25, 1913, a specimen taken by Allan Brooks.

**Cinclus mexicanus unicolor.** American Dipper. Grinnell omits all reference to the hibernal retreat of this species to lower levels. This phenomenon would not be noticeable in the southern ranges, but is undoubtedly as characteristic of the bird in northern California and the high Sierras as it is in Washington or British Columbia. "Also, perhaps casually, or at any rate not at present time, vicinity of Santa Barbara". Mr. Bowles has seen the bird in Mission Canyon, and I flushed one repeatedly in Tecolote Canyon, November 10, 1915. My impression is, however, that these are extreme examples of the hibernal retreat referred to, rather than of resident birds.

**Oreoscoptes montanus.** Sage Thrasher. On the 4th of April, 1914, a single individual of this species ventured near our camp and sang sweetly at "Point of Rocks", in extreme northwestern Kern County.

**Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus.** Auburn Canyon Wren. "Fairly common resident locally . . . San Diego northwestward to Mount Pinos". This wren is quite common in the Santa Ynez Range near Santa Barbara, and appears to be on the increase of late. "Sparingly in west-central district", with southernmost citation from Santa Cruz County. This bird occurs regularly also along the "innermost coast range"—shall we call it the Shandon Range?—which forms the eastern border of San Luis Obispo County. Record stations are: Shandon, S. L. O. Co., March 29, 1911; Palo Prieta (Valley), S. L. O. Co., April 8, 1911; Antelope Valley, extreme northwestern Kern County, April 10, 1912; Canaris Springs, Kern County, April 4 to 7, 1914; Kettleman Plains, western Kings County, April 7, 1911.

The most out of character occurrence of this bird in my experience was at Lathrop, on the edge of the great San Joaquin swamp, May 25, 1912. The wren examined the gables of a blacksmith's shop, flitted to a neighboring windmill, sang, and appeared thoroughly at home. "Casually to Santa Cruz Island". Heard on only one occasion, April 20, in the dropping song, by our island party of 1915.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmani.** Western House Wren. "Common summer visitant to Upper Sonoran and Transition . . . invades the higher mountains extensively during late summer". This doughty Troglodyte is also entitled to a place as a breeder in the Canadian zone. I found nests and took eggs (July 3 and 8, 1912) of this species in the Warner Mountains, at an altitude of over 7400 feet. Its nesting associates at this station numbered such indubitable borealities as Western Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wright Flycatcher, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

**Penthestes gambeli baileyae.** Bailey Chickadee. "Common resident . . . from Mount Pinos . . . southeastward". Mountain Chickadees sometimes appear on the Santa Ynez Range, back of Santa Barbara (January 6 and 16, and February 27, 1915); and I have had the birds described to me within the city limits.

**Psaltiriparus minimus californicus.** California Bush-Tit. "Northeastward . . . to head of Pit River basin on the west side of the Warner Mountains". On July 1, 1912, we found this species on Raider Creek just above the Surprise Valley, on the lowermost eastern slopes of the Warner Range. The extension seems trivial save when it is real-

ized that *P. plumbeus* might possibly occur there, as it does a little farther east, in Nevada (Taylor's Birds, etc., of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada, p. 419).

**Regulus satrapa olivaceus.** Western Golden-crowned Kinglet. A family group encountered July 3, 1912, at an altitude of 7500 feet on the east slope of the Warner Range, and the species repeatedly seen thereafter near Eagle Peak. Not previously recorded from these mountains.

*Santa Barbara, California, December 8, 1915.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**House Finch or Linnet?**—*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* has long been known in the A. O. U. *Check-List* as the House Finch. It is generally known by that name over its whole vast range except in a portion of California. Yet it is rather persistently called Linnet (or, worse still, California Linnet) by a group of Californians of an ornithological turn of mind, who frequently succeed in getting one or the other of those terms into so excellent a magazine as THE CONDOR. Is it impertinent to ask why?

"Linnet" is certainly not distinctive. It means nothing. It is applied to different species in different parts of the world, and by the vast majority of ornithologists of the world would, if standing by itself without the technical name, be taken to mean a very different species which does not occur where the House Finch is found.

Surely no one can defend the term "California Linnet" as applied to this bird. The temporarily successful effort a few years ago to have the latter adopted in the *Check-List* savored of an attempt to boost California real estate by foisting upon this wide-spread species a geographic name representing only a short, narrow strip along the extreme edge of its range. Some of us who frequently visit that great state and view its wealth and natural resources, enjoying its surf-bathing, climate, scenery and other advantages, admire the loyalty and boosting spirit of its citizens, but feel that it is hardly necessary to thus misrepresent the range of a bird species in ornithological nomenclature, in order to sustain California's splendid material progress. Also we are constrained to believe that the few who are seeking to do so do not really represent the ornithologists of the state. I hope I may not be considered presumptuous in inviting the few seceders to move back into the United States and conform to the custom of the country, in the interests of nomenclatural uniformity.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.*

**Shearwaters on San Francisco Bay.**—On the afternoon of September 8, 1915, while crossing the bay from San Francisco to Sausalito at 4:30 o'clock, a small movement of Shearwaters, presumably *Puffinus griseus*, was observed. The birds were working on an ebb tide from the upper bay toward the Golden Gate, their line of flight being between Alcatraz and Angel islands. All crossed the bow of the boat, but when about mid-way between Alcatraz and the Heads, seemingly whirled back towards the former. Similar but larger movements have been noted on several occasions during the last fifteen years.—JOHN W. MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, September 14, 1915.*

**A Golden-crowned Sparrow Lost on Mount Shasta.**—On August 22, 1915, I found a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) frozen in the snow at an altitude of 14,350 feet on Mount Shasta. The specimen was forwarded for verification of identity to the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it is preserved as an alcoholic (no. 25531 of the bird collection). Since the bird is apparently in nuptial plumage, it had probably met its fate some time during the preceding spring migration period.—W. J. CHAMBERLIN, *Weed, California.*

**Late Nesting of the Arkansas Goldfinch.**—On October 22, 1915, while pruning some apple trees near my house, I was surprised to find a Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) sitting on three eggs in a nest about eight feet above the ground in one of the apple trees. The young hatched on the 24th of October. I looked at the nest on November 4 and they were still in the nest; but on the 8th they had left, probably taken by a cat, though they may have flown by that time.—J. S. APPLETON, *Simi, Ventura County, California.*